

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IOE-00 /098 W

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P R 141237Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 2500

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON UK

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS FR

AMEMBASSY SEOUL KOREA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1153

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KN, KS, BA

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 30TH UNGA - BAHRAIN POSITION

REFERENCE: STATE 242231

1. EVENING OCTOBER 12 AMBASSADOR CALLED ON GOB FOREIGN MINISTER, JUST RETURNED FROM UNGA, TO RAISE KOREAN ISSUE. FOREIGN MINISTER QUICKLY VOLUNTEERED GOB'S INCLINATION TO ABSTAIN ON ALL VOTES ON THIS ISSUE. WHILE HE ACKNOWLEDGED HAVING BEEN IMPRESSED BY U.S. POSITION AS PUT FORTH BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON DURING THEIR NEW YORK MEETING (USUN 4713), HE MADE FAMILIAR PLEA THAT BAHRAIN FELT ITSELF VERY MUCH ON THE SPOT ON THIS ISSUE AND PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSED BY FACT THAT IT HAD PARTICIPATED IN LIMA CONFERENCE WHICH ADOPTED RESOLUTION UNFAVORABLE TO U.S. POSITION.

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2. AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED EXTREME IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO THIS ISSUE AND STRESSED FACT THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS TAKING POSITION IN SUPPORT OF OURS. (FOR JIDDA AND USUN: RE STATE 237235, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT WHEN HE LEFT NEW YORK (APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER 2) SAG DELEGATION HAD NOT YET APPROACHED BAHRAIN DELEGATION TO URGE SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITION.) IN ENSUING DISCUSSION, FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED THAT, DESPITE IMPORTANCE GOB ATTACHES TO SAUDI STAND, FACT THAT TWO MAJOR ARAB GOVERNMENTS, ALGERIA AND EGYPT, ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR GOB TO FOLLOW "PRO AMERICAN" SAUDI LINE. HE INDICATED GOB NOT LIKELY TO BE SWAYED BY HOW OTHER LOWER GULF STATES VOTE BUT DID EXPRESS SOME INTEREST IN POSSIBILITY THAT KUWAIT MIGHT SHIFT TO NEUTRAL POSITION. (COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER APPARENTLY IS TRYING TO APPLY "SAFE" STRATEGY BAHRAIN ADOPTED ON LAST YEAR'S CAMBODIAN ISSUE WHICH INVOLVES NOT BEING LURED AWAY FROM ABSTAINING BECAUSE OF SAUDI SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITION UNLESS AT LEAST ONE OTHER MAJOR ARAB STATE JOINS SAUDIS. FACT THAT KUWAIT LIKELY AT BEST TO ABSTAIN IS NOT ENCOURAGING INSOFAR PROSPECTS INFLUENCING BAHRAIN VOTE CONCERNED. END COMMENT.)

3. WHEN AMBASSADOR FURTHER STRESSED IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO SAUDI SUPPORT AND OUR INTEREST THAT EQUALLY FRIENDLY GULF STATES SUCH AS BAHRAIN JOIN SAUDIS, FOREIGN MINISTER PROMISED TO DO "EVERYTHING POSSIBLE" TO BE OF HELP. HE COMPLAINED, HOWEVER, AS HE HAD AT SOME LENGTH PREVIOUS EVENING TO VISITING FORD FOUNDATION PRESIDENT MCGEORGE BUNDY, THAT ONE OF DIFFICULTIES A FORMER PROTECTED STATE LIKE BAHRAIN FACES IN SUPPORTING SOUTH KOREA IS THAT SOUTH KOREANS APPEAR SO INEFFECTIVE IN ADVANCING THEIR OWN CAUSE AND SEEM TO RELY ON U.S. OR U.K. TO CARRY THE BALL FOR THEM. THUS GOB WORRIES THAT IT APPEARS TO OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES THAT IT IS REJOINING COLONIAL RANKS BY FOLLOWING U.S. AND U.K. LEAD IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH KOREA.

4. AMBASSADOR GAVE FOREIGN MINISTER TEXT OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AS AMENDED BY FRANCE. FOREIGN MINISTER PROMISED TO STUDY IT AND TO CONSULT WITH SAUDIS AT THIS WEEK'S CAIRO MEETING ON LEBANON IN EFFORT TO SEE IF GOB COULD JUSTIFY SUPPORTING US. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. AMBASSADOR STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PROCEDURAL VOTE ON PRIORITIES NOTING IT LIKELY TO COME UP AS EARLY AS OCTOBER 21. FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THIS VOTE WOULD TAKE PLACE SO QUICKLY AND INDICATED HE WOULD MAKE CERTAIN BAHRAIN DELEGATION ADEQUATELY INSTRUCTED ON HOW TO HANDLE THIS VOTE.

6. U.K. CHARGE' HERE STILL HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS TO WEIGH IN

WITH GOB AND NEW AMBASSADOR, ARRIVING TODAY, MAY NOT SEE FOREIGN MINISTER BEFORE OCTOBER 21, SINCE MINISTER WILL NOT RETURN FROM CAIRO UNTIL OCTOBER 18. ASSISTANCE BY BRITISH, SAUDI AND FRENCH EMBASSIES IN BAHRAIN IN SUPPORT OF OUR JOINT POSITION WOULD, OF COURSE, NOT BE UNHELPFUL BUT, AT LEAST INSOFAR AS RAPIDLY UPCOMING VOTE ON PRIORITY FOR HOSTILE RESOLUTION IS CONCERNED, BEST PLACE FOR THESE COUNTRIES TO WORK ON BAHRAINIS IS AT USUN.

7. COMMENT: AT THIS STAGE I SEE LITTLE POSSIBILITY GOB LIKELY TO MOVE FROM ABSTAINING POSITION BUT IT CERTAINLY WOULD DO NO HARM FOR USUN TO CONTINUE WORKING ON BAHRAINI DELIGATION PRIOR TO PROCEDURAL VOTE. DEPENDING ON HOW BAHRAIN AND ITS NEIGHBORS VOTE ON PROCEDURAL ISSUE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PURSUE VOTES ON HOSTILE AND FRIENDLY RESOLUTIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. END COMMENT.

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